

In the Claims

1 – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein the plug and container tube can be interlocked ~~at any moment at the will of the user.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, ~~wherein the further~~ comprising a connecting means ~~[[is]]~~ integral with the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein the connecting means is a divisible clamp.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein the physical transformation is a rupture or tear of the connecting means.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein interlocking of the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve is made by irreversibly ~~driving~~ sliding the ~~container~~ tube into the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve and the ~~container~~ tube are made of different materials.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 33, wherein the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve is composed of a material that allows engraving an indelible and unitary identification.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve is composed of a material that allows reading of the elevated engraving.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18, wherein the connecting means is a tongue that can be integrated in a definitive and non-replaceable manner with the ~~apparatus~~ sleeve and the plug.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out with an adhesive band that can not be violated by tearing.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 25, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out by welding.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 23, further comprising a housing that allows insertion of a physical element containing at least one piece of information associated with the contents.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[23]] 28, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out in an irreversible manner.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A unit that receives biological specimens comprising:

a sleeve;

a tube shaped and sized to contain biological specimens and to slide into the sleeve and provided with a system that interlocks the sleeve on the tube in a single direction at first and second levels; and

a plug having an opening,

wherein after interlocking at the first level, the sleeve is integrated to the tube in a single direction and after interlocking at the second level, the opening of the plug brings about a physical

transformation of the sleeve and not of the plug, the physical transformation being irreversible and visible.